

Checkpoint

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Howard Kurtz, Editor

A NETWORK NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE CONCERNED
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BOX 19127, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036
PHONE (202) 785-0708

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((Policy Perspectives may be reprinted or published without restrictions. In recent years our communities, and even our families, have become divided between "softliners" who would have the U.S. turn weak unilaterally in the face of growing world dangers, and "hardliners" who would have the U.S. endlessly escalate the Soviet/American race to produce the power to obliterate world civilization. The following pages are intended to open creative public discussion of a new power option available to the President and Congress for the first time in history:- an opportunity to bring the "softliners" and the "hardliners" together in an unprecedented New American Purpose, bringing valid hope to the patriotic people of all 150 sovereign nations, and a renewed sense of pride in America.))

POLICY PERSPECTIVES
for
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Hearings on Future U.S. Space Programs
January 24, 25 & 26, 1978

Howard G. Kurtz, President
War Control Planners, Inc
Box 19127, Washington D.C. 20036

TO: Chairman Olin E. Teague

For a very few more years the United States will have a dominant world lead in the science and technology race, as exemplified in the field of the pro-human, life-supporting space satellite systems. The choice of whether humanity will have a worthwhile future may well rest, at the moment, in the hands of the President of the United States and of the majority of the Members of the House of Representatives and of the Senate, as they face the imperative to clarify, before it is too late, the goals and commitments of the U.S. Space Program. These goals in turn must be brought into focus with the as-yet-undecided U.S. long range strategic objective. We must answer the simple question " What Kind of Future World Order are We, the American People, Trying to Create ? "

Whether the Congress now clarifies, or refuses to clarify, U.S. long range global objectives to guide U.S. space programs for the coming generation, is a matter of concern not only for the American people. This Congressional action, or inaction, is of deep concern to the future generations of all 150 sovereign nations on Planet Earth.

In response to your invitation, I submit for pro and con and creative discussion just a few highlights from more than twenty years study, work, observation, writing, speaking and editing in the field of the ever-expanding Kremlin/White House science and technology and strategic power race, working jointly with my wife Harriet until her death on June 17, 1977.

Discussion is invited under the following seven headings:-

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- I. COLLAPSE OF TRADITIONAL NATIONAL SECURITY CONCEPTS
- II. CONGRESSIONAL PREOCCUPATION WITH IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS
- III. THE PENDULUM SWING IN THE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
- IV. WHICH NATION WILL PROVIDE WORLD-WIDE INSPIRATION FOR THE FUTURE ?
- V. U.S.GRAND STRATEGY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CAN GRASP AND SUPPORT
- VI. THE IMPOTENCE OF CONGRESS TODAY
- VII. EXAMPLES OF GLOBAL SPACE SATELLITE POLICY INDECISIONS

I. COLLAPSE OF TRADITIONAL NATIONAL SECURITY CONCEPTS

Throughout recorded history tribes and nations have based their defense planning on a commitment to increase their powers to kill enemies who threatened. There has been no other valid basic assumption. But a historic era has been collapsing for more than two decades, as the top-of-the-line strategic weapons on both sides have become capable, if unleashed, of annihilating both sides and much , or most, of world populations. Now , like passengers in two giant airplanes flying toward each other in a cloud, the citizens of both sides of modern war face the prospect of obliteration. There no longer is an increased sense of security in public attitudes toward escalating military budgets. Finding new strategic concepts and objectives has become imperative.

The awesome breakthrough into Space Power has been a by-product of this science and technology race between the superpowers. In a new sense the leap into the Space Age dwarfs the earlier breakthrough into the Nuclear Age, because it has provided humankind with an unprecedented cosmic choice . . . a choice of life or death for humanity . . . a moral choice. On the one hand space power can enhance the probabilities of the final holocaust, by holding the weapons of extermination over the heads of all human beings, like the Sword of Damocles hanging over every man and woman by a thin human hair , with the competitive preparations for future space war. The NAVSTAR satellite navigation complex for which the Congress has authorized funds for some years, will be able to drop a nuclear bomb, or an ordinary bomb, or a firecracker within thirty feet of any chosen target on Earth, by unmanned missiles or aircraft.

On the other hand the NAVSTAR space program can provide precise navigation aid for the public safety in all land, sea and air transport, everywhere on Earth. These and many other earth-orbiting military and civilian, intelligence and communications satellite systems can become the unprecedented pro-human global power tools, with which to begin building the foundations for a future civilized world-wide management complex capable of stabilizing international relations without threats of war, as the satellites also assist all nations in their struggles for the production of food, clothing, housing, energy, clean air & water, health, education and national security for all populations held within prudent limits. I will provide concrete examples on following pages.

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II. CONGRESSIONAL PREOCCUPATION WITH IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS

Mentioned in sympathy and not in criticism, due to the increasing pressures and crises Members of Congress have become somewhat like persons trapped in the hold of a burning, sinking vessel at sea . . . beating frantically at nearby hot flames with inadequate brooms . . . unable to force their attentions on the complex problem of building a fire-proof boat or a crisis-proof world order.

The White House has never told the Congress the answer to the question " What Kind of Future World Order are we Trying to Create ?".

At least publicly, the Congress has never asked.

III. THE PENDULUM SWING IN THE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Advancing science and technology and management skills which made possible production of jet bombers to kill people at unprecedented magnitudes and distances, then made possible the historic pendulum swing in the opposite direction, to the production of jet transport planes bringing people closer together into new world community.

Similarly the Soviet/American science and technology race producing global systems of death, destruction and extermination, has now reached the historic moment when a pendulum swing in the opposite direction is feasible for the first time in history, for the gradual development and pragmatic testing of world-wide war prevention systems and life support systems for all nations.

The Chief Executive of and the Board of Directors of a corporation producing jet bombers . . . ,and no one below these officials . . . can make the executive decision to utilize the same scientists and engineers and specialists in all fields, to produce, instead, jet transport planes to serve the needs of world civilization. Similarly, the President of the United States and the Congress . . . and no one in the U.S. power structures below these men and women in Government . . . can make the executive decision to lead the world in the coming generation in the research and development and public demonstration of world-sized systems and structures and legal institutions, to guard the security, independence and development of all nations (somewhat as Air Traffic Control guards the safety and forward progress of all airplanes in a cloud).

I am attaching as an appendix to this document, for the purpose of stimulating creative discussion, the projection of but one concrete example of such an executive decision which can be made by the President and Congress without further delay. The discussion agenda was published in December 1973 issue of SPECTRUM, journal of the 160,000 member Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers - IEEE - under the title " A GLOBAL INFORMATION COOPERATIVE ". This is the projection of greatly increased programs for military and civilian earth-orbiting, life-serving satellite services to provide intelligence and information and communications to help the people of all nations in their struggles for security, independence and development. I will provide many specific examples of these services in a moment.

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IV. WHICH NATION WILL PROVIDE WORLD-WIDE INSPIRATION FOR THE FUTURE ?

There are about 150 sovereign nations on the planet. The patriotic people of these nations have not attached their support to either Kremlin or White House side of the self-generating race for power to threaten the consumption of scarce energies and resources for the inflationary production of the power to destroy world populations.

Any politician can understand this world public "gut reaction".

The nation which will deserve world leadership in the coming era will be the superpower with leadership vision and human concern great enough to (1) meet all requirements for its own national defense and in addition (2) set the pace for a next generation competition to develop and demonstrate and establish the operational feasibility of world-sized systems and institutions to serve the basic needs of all nations. The earth-serving satellite systems and services can provide the leading edge for eventual breakthrough into a new Age of Compassionate Power. This will be the most complex and difficult challenge civilization ever has faced.

Making Planet Earth safe for human futures will dwarf the difficulties of making the Moon safe for human visits. But all essential elements with which to begin the historic effort are within reach of the President and Congress. The life-preserving satellite systems have been developed, and tested, and proven and within reach of those in authority in the U.S. Government.

Over a year ago NASA chose twenty of its key executives to work together for a year, inviting opinions from hundreds of outside sources, to project the long range future for U.S. space programs. The exhaustive report to the Administrator was titled OUTLOOK FOR SPACE. As this creative team turned in this study to the Administrator, I believe you will find that the group made a strong private recommendation to him that the "applications" budgets for research and development should be raised from about two hundred million dollars a year, to about six hundred million dollars a year to place these humanity-serving development programs on an equal level with the space science and manned spectacular research and development budgets.

These recommendations by the NASA long range planning experts have been ignored. The Office of Management and Budget apparently has imposed the discipline to keep the NASA budget request to the Congress for these earth-serving satellite applications down to the traditional, highly inadequate figures. Congress has been too preoccupied with near-by flames to try to find the long range national security interest.

The moment is here. The U.S. has the capabilities. As President Kennedy refocused American public opinion beyond the Cuban Invasion fiasco by the public commitment of American creativity and power to make the Moon safe for human visitstoday President Carter and Congress can refocus the world-wide yearning for leadership toward an end to war, sparked by President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin, by an awe-inspiring commitment of American creativity and power and character to the unprecedented task of developing world-sized systems and institutions to guard the security and independence and progress of all nations.

Missing only is the vision and commitment by the President and Congress.

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V. U.S. GRAND STRATEGY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CAN GRASP AND SUPPORT

If the American people are to be spared the hopelessness of runaway world crisis, like a successful football coach the President and Congress will have to maintain two different kinds of superior strategic power.

For many years the President and Congress will have to maintain superior defense power, to prevent opposing hostile powers from breaking through to their goal of world dominion. But a nation, or a football team, with nothing more than defense strategy, in time will lose the confrontation. In addition . . .

The President and Congress will have to create and maintain superior forward power gradually in the coming years to move all power confrontations down the field toward the distant goal of a civilized world community of nations, far more complex and effective than the present United Nations, capable of guarding the security and independence and development of all nations, large and small.

A large sector of America will continue to work in the defense platoons, defending the United States against clear and present dangers from hostile foreign powers. Without a strong defense power the American people face disaster and tragedy.

And in addition . . .

A large sector of America will be released and channeled in the forward platoons, as the President and Congress make a large scale, long range, sustained commitment before the whole world to an unprecedented generation of creativity and new fields of research and development and testing and demonstration of the prototype models of the future LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR PLANET EARTH, serving the basic needs of all nations . . . with the same boldness and inventiveness and determination displayed by America in the past generation's world leadership developing powers of global death and calamity and extermination.

In recent years in America the "softliners" and the "hardliners" have been fighting each other, further weakening the United States as it has been losing its world influence. But under the projected new U.S. Grand Strategy the "doves" and the "hawks" . . . the "softliners" and the "hardliners" . . . the defense platoons and the forward platoons, will be playing on the same team for a change, striving during the coming generation to lead the nations of the world toward the goal of new world institutions within which science and technology (knowledge and skills in all fields) will be harnessed to serve the needs of humanity, rather than producing the power to rupture or destroy world civilization.

Just as a stimulant to creative imagination, on later pages I will show a few concrete examples of the forward platoons leading the world in the development of life-serving satellite systems.

VI. THE IMPOTENCE OF CONGRESS TODAY

The following are a few highlights of space programs already proven, and readily available for a new world statesmanship.

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The LANDSAT satellite in one orbit around the Earth in approximately 103 minutes, invades the privacy of every sovereign nation in its path 115 miles wide, gathering . . .communicating to the U.S. . . .and storing intimate intelligence and information.

This creates one of the most complex and difficult "foreign relations" problems in history. Once every eighteen days this one LANDSAT satellite inspects in increasingly minute detail, the sovereign territory of every nation on the planet, without exception. Yet it has been our experience that members of the Senate and House Foreign Relations and International Affairs Committees are almost wholly uninformed on the functioning of these new global power tools which have been operating for more than four years.

This is only one small part of the problem facing Congress. In one orbit of the Earth this one "eye in the sky" satellite involves the direct and immediate responsibility of at least twenty-four Committees in the House of Representatives and the Senate. Your Committee is quite bold to permit this subject to be discussed pro and con. Other Committees have refused to allow discussion "because it is beyond the jurisdiction or the authority of this Committee". This illustrates how the Congress has tended to abdicate responsibility for determining the character or the objectives of U.S. global science and technology and strategic power.

During the eighteen days it takes one LANDSAT to cover the entire Earth, garnering information, its instruments are recording what is scanned, and forwarding this intelligence to U.S. computers, only 1.8 % of the time. 98.2 % of the time this American LANDSAT is gathering and storing information from areas that are foreign to the United States. Wholly unprecedented U.S. foreign policy and global strategy have become imperative. LANDSAT could be the instrument to convince all nations of the world that U.S. multinational corporations are receiving preferred access to the knowledge of the energies and resources and economic potentials of all nations as part of a scheme to dominate the economy of the whole worldor LANDSAT can become the leading edge instrument for a transcendent new U.S. national commitment to create new kinds of international management structures in which all nations will have a voice in the policies and objectives of open-to-the-public global information systems.

Do "eye in the sky" satellites involve "military" or "civilian" policy? One of the emerging satellites will contain instruments which will measure the temperature of the surface water of the oceans, hundreds of miles below, to within a fraction of a degree. This will be of added value for civilian seastate and weather forecasting. But this same instrument at the same moment will be able to detect the faint trail of slightly warmer water rising to the surface, heated by the friction of the propeller of a silent nuclear submarine, against the surrounding water, leaving a tell-tale trail of warmer surface water to mark the path of this military submarine. From here on out "military technology" and "civilian technology" increasingly will overlap, involving simultaneously two or three . . . or eight or nine . . . Committees of the House or Senate simultaneously. Satellites monitoring crops along national borders, simultaneously will be monitoring troop movements across that border. Satellites monitoring pollution of rivers from sewage or oil spills, also will detect pollution of the same river from production of nuclear or other weapons.

The Leadership of the House and the Senate have not yet begun to grasp responsibility.

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VII. EXAMPLES OF GLOBAL SPACE SATELLITE POLICY INDECISIONS

1. Trained geologists using LANDSAT imagery available to the public are able to analyze lineaments and geologic fault to assist in locating new underground gas and oil and water and mineral resources within the borders of all nations. Should the multinational corporations which can afford the trained geologists and expensive equipment have privileged access to the knowledge of all other nations' undiscovered resources . . . or should the Congress and the President provide leadership toward unprecedented inter-nation or all-nation management systems to allow all nations a proper access to this economic intelligence?

2. With millions of human beings on the planet facing slow death through starvation or malnutrition, the satellites can provide the information foundation for world-wide inventories of all crops and fibres . . . computerized predictions of the world's crops . . . the health or disease of the crops . . . and advance crops estimates. Should Kremlin strategists have privileged access to this crop intelligence? Should American agribusiness interests have privileged use of this intelligence? Should there be some kind of GLOBAL INFORMATION SERVICES in which all nations receive benefit?

3. The U.S. military and civilian satellites have the capability to provide maps of all nations, in intimate detail (in three-dimension projections). The Pentagon through the Defense Mapping Agency for some years has been helping Central and South American nations in this way. The U.S. Geologic Survey is the world leader in civilian satellite mapping techniques. Should the accumulating maps of the world be Soviet classified military documents? American classified military documents? or should there be an unprecedented future all-nation mapping service meeting the needs of all nations?

4. In a year-long successful experiment with the ATS-6 communications satellite, a professor of anatomy at the University of Washington taught a class fifteen hundred miles away in Alaska . . . both professor and students seeing and speaking with each other through two-way television relayed via satellite. With strong U.S. leadership on a world scale for the next twenty years, high quality education could make inroads to all of the illiterate and uneducated and remote billion human beings. Over a year ago the Office of Management and Budget forced NASA to give up this creative work, so U.S. corporations could find profit selling their creativity in this field to foreign nations . . . and now Canada, and Germany and Japan have surpassed the United States in this dramatic leading edge into a worthwhile future for humankind. Congress did not object.

5. In another successful one-year experiment in Alaska damaged babies and injured or sick adults in villages 500 miles from a doctor, were examined and treated regularly by a distant doctor through two-way television relayed via broadcast satellites. Combined with a generation of outreaching medical and public health education, these "doctor in the sky" satellites could be a leading instrument in a new U.S. world strategy to assist the world in providing food for the hungry, cloth for the naked, medicine for the sick, shelter for the shivering and security for the nations. The Office of Management and Budget forced NASA to stop this creative work for reasons similar to the above. Congress appeared to be too busy to care.

May I conclude with two points:- (1) we have mentioned only a small fraction of the satellite capabilities already developed and (2) within NASA and each of the other Departments and Agencies of the U.S. Government there are very large backlogs of valid, feasible, pro-human concepts and services waiting to be put into the creative stream of research and development and demonstration to assist all nations in their struggles for security and independence and development. What kind of future world order are we trying to create? Can Congress answer that question? The whole world might like to know.

* * *

ONE EXAMPLE OF AN EXECUTIVE DECISION WHICH CAN BE MADE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND CONGRESS, TO SIGNAL A NEW WORLD COMMITMENT TO LIFE AND HOPE

Reprinted from December 1973 SPECTRUM, journal of the 160,000 member Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers - IEEE - to stimulate creative professional, public and political discussion. This is an expansion of President Eisenhower's "Open Skies" policy magnified a thousand times by today's global satellite technology.

Proposal for a global information cooperative

The American people through their government could announce to the world a large scale, long-range, sustained commitment to build a giant open-to-the-public Global Information Cooperative... linked to a greatly expanded ten year series of earth-orbiting, intelligence-gathering satellites and other global information-gathering sources. The objective of this Global Information Cooperative would be:

I. To maintain a public inventory of potential public danger for the planet, whether from threat of war, or pollution, or draught, or hurricane, or blight, or shipwreck, or any other threat to the general wellbeing of human beings everywhere, and

II. To provide earth resources development information assisting the economic progress and human wellbeing for people of all nations. All nations will be invited to cooperate as part of an eventual broader War Prevention Decade of new research and development and testing.

All nations would be invited to cooperate by assigning experts and research teams to work together in a large Global Information Research Park surrounding the Cooperative. This would include military experts, intelligence experts, agricultural experts, geologic survey experts, and specialists in all relevant fields. There would be no classified information, no secrets. Anything that can be *seen* or *detected* or *discovered* through outerspace instrumentation would be available to the people and the nations of the world.

Information would be made public on large illuminated information display walls, and would be stored in computers for reference. Communications links would be maintained with the world radio, television, and printed news and public information media. This mobilization of information research and develop-

ment for the future safety and wellbeing of the people of all nations would proceed with American initiative, no matter what nations withhold cooperation at first. Nations would be free to join the cooperative at any future time.

There would be no need to first "negotiate" with potential enemies before the American people lead the people of all nations gradually toward a new age of openness. Potential enemies on both sides of all confrontations would be invited to see inside their own country what American reconnaissance satellites already see.

All nations capable of launching surveillance satellites would be invited to link them to the Global Information Cooperative. All nations would be invited to build similar open-to-the-public information centers, linked to central information receivers, and storage facilities, and retrieval facilities. All nations would be free to install receiving facilities to be linked directly to the eyes-in-the-sky.

Howard and Harriet Kurtz
War Control Planners, Inc.
Box 19127
Washington, D.C. 20036

Howard G. Kurtz spent twenty-two years (1932-1954) in airline management positions and twelve years (1954-1966) in the management consulting firm of Handy Associates, Inc. Since 1966 he has devoted his full-time to War Control Planners, Inc., of which he is president.

Harriet B. Kurtz graduated from Wellesley College in 1937, and Union Theological Seminary in 1962. She was ordained to the ministry of the United Church of Christ in 1964, with a mission in the field of war and crisis as her particular charge.

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BOX 19127, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

Address Correction Requested

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